other proposals were cleared, relating to cases received prior to 1-8-1992. Thus, the total number of cases cleared since 1-8-1992 up to 31-7-1993 are 41.

(e) As and when full details are received, the proposals are examined expeditiously for decision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Rio Earth Summit

2743. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during his recent visit to the United Nations he expressed unhappiness over the fact that even after a year of the Rio Earth Summit few concrete steps had been taken, especially by the industrial countries, to implement the Rio-conventions:

(b) if so, what was the general response of the world body, particularly the industrial countries thereto; and

(c) whether the steps taken to control pollution in India had also been reviewed, if so, the details in this regard and the outcome of the apprisal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) While addressing the First Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in June 1993 at New York, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests has expressed India's deep concern about slow progress in allocation of new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology by the developed countries, as agreed in Rio. Similar sentiments were also expressed by many of the other developing countries. There was a general consensus that the Commission on Sustainable Development has to play an important role in this regard.

(c) No Sir.

State Pollution Control Board

2744. SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government recently issued directions to the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Committees regarding grant of Consent to establish small scale industries other than 17 identified industries, making a provision that mere script of an application will be taken as consent given to the applying individual unit if it belongs to other category other than the 17 identified ones, and that such consent is to be valid for 15 years;

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to control pollution from thousands of dying, rolling and pickling rubber and PVC processing units, electroplating units etc. which are very hazardous, but still not included in the 17 identified industries;

(c) whether it is a fact that Delhi Pollution Control Committee is being headed by a non-technical member-Secretary in contravention of the R. R. for the post of Director (Environment) who is Ex-officio Member-Secretary to D.P.C.C.; and

(d) if so, the reasons due to which fully qualified technical hands in DPCC are not considered for the post ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The directions issued have only simplified the procedure for the small scale units (other than the 17 categories) to obtain the consent. It has been specified that there would be no need for the industry to obtain periodic renewal of consent till 15 years or such time the unit modifies/changes its process/processes. All such industries still have to conform to all the existing requirements in regard to the control of pollution, and the directions issued also specified that the concerned State Pollution Control Boards may conduct random checks or call for information from any small scale units, and make a formal consent order prescribing conditions etc., as required.

(c) and (d) Steps have been taken for recruitment of the post of a Director (Environment) on a regular basis, and the present incumbent of the post of Member-Secretay holds it on an ad hoc basis, which is not a contravention of the recruitment rules.

Rising Rate of Illegal Felling of Trees

2745. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement in the Patriot dated 8th July, 1993 stating that rising rate of illegal felling of trees and slow rate of afforestation in the States was causing grave concern;